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THE UNCANNY

X-MEN

**THE
SAGA OF
PROFESSOR X!**
**A NEW BEGINNING
--AND THE
END?!**



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PSI-WAR!

Now . . . the Amazing **ENERGIZED™** **SPIDER-MAN!**

ENERGIZED

TO CLIMB! Attach the Spider Clamp, turn on Spiderman's energy belt and his web climber goes into action. He climbs doors. Walls. Windows. Fences. Automatically.

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**TO PULL!
TO LIFT!**

Spiderman's energized web actually pulls and lifts objects heavier than his own weight!

ENERGIZED

TO POWER HIS SPIDERCOPTER. As Spiderman sits in his Spidercopter, his power turns the rotor. And also sends out a powerful search beam. Spiderman flies by night.

Spider-man is 13½ inches tall.

ENERGIZED

TO THROW LIGHT! His Spider-Light cuts a beam through the night, lighting the way to safety . . . or to find the enemy!

The **ENERGIZED** **GREEN GOBLIN.**

Spiderman's enemy. He's energized to cut Spiderman's web, power his Goblin Ray gun. A formidable foe for Energized Spiderman.

Green Goblin comes with Web Cutter and Goblin Ray Gun.

ACCESSORY PACK, TOO! A Spider Trap, plus Spider Ray Gun. Rocket Camera. Just attach to Spiderman's Energy Belt!

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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE UNCANNY X-MEN!™

BELOW CAPE HORN LIES
THE DRAKE PASSAGE,
A NARROW STRIP OF
WATER SEPARATING
SOUTH AMERICA
FROM ANTARCTICA.

IT IS ALSO THE AQUATIC
FRONTIER BETWEEN THE
ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS.
EVEN AT THE BEST OF TIMES,
IT IS SAID TO HAVE THE WORST
WEATHER IN THE WORLD.

THE X-MEN ARE
LEARNING THAT
FACT THE HARD
WAY.

PSY WAR!

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BYRNE
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INKS

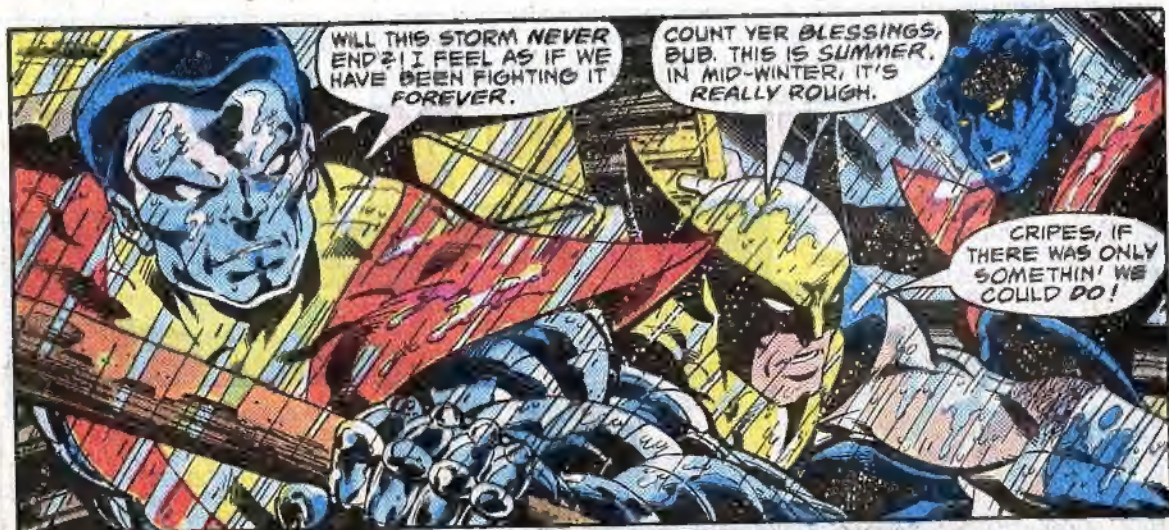
CLEM
ROBINS
LETTERS

GLYNIS
WEIN
COLORS

ROGER
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WILL THIS STORM NEVER
END? I FEEL AS IF WE
HAVE BEEN FIGHTING IT
FOREVER.

COUNT YER BLESSINGS,
DUB. THIS IS SUMMER.
IN MID-WINTER, IT'S
REALLY ROUGH.

CRIPES, IF
THERE WAS ONLY
SOMETHIN' WE
COULD DO!



ANY BRIGHT IDEAS,
BANSHEE? I'LL TAKE
WHATEVER
I CAN GET.

NOT A
ONE, I'M
AFRAID,
CYCLOPS.

ME SONIC
SCREAM IS
NEAR-USELESS
IN THIS BAD
A BLOW!



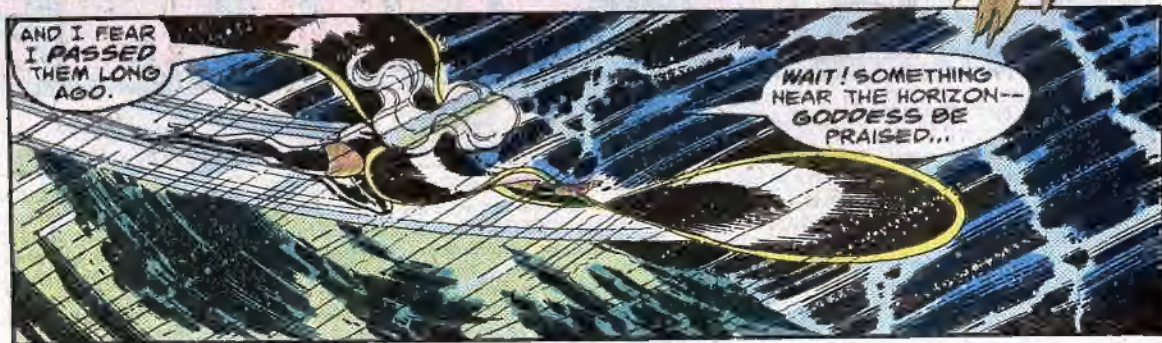
HEY, BOSS-MAN,
STORM CONTROLS
WEATHER, RIGHT?
HOW COME SHE
AIN'T USIN' HER
POWERS...

...TO CALM
THINGS DOWN
AROUND HERE?!



WHAT DO YOU
THINK I'VE
BEEN DOING
WOLVERINE?!

EVEN MY
POWERS
HAVE
THEIR
LIMITS.



AND I FEAR
I PASSED
THEM LONG
AGO.

WAIT! SOMETHING
NEAR THE HORIZON--
GODDESS BE
PRAISED...



"...IT'S A SHIP!"

THERE'S NO DOUBT, CAPTAIN--

--WE HAVE POSITIVE RADAR AND VISUAL CONTACT ON SOME KIND OF SMALL CRAFT. LOOKOUT REPORTS SURVIVORS VISIBLE.



IN THIS SEA, THAT'S A MIRACLE.

MAY I REMIND THE CAPTAIN OF MISSION-SECURITY?



NO ORDERS WILL MAKE ME VIOLATE THE LAW OF THE SEA, TAKEDA. BRING THEM ABOARD.

WITH HER LAST RESERVES OF STRENGTH, STORM CREATES AN AREA OF RELATIVE PEACE AROUND THE TWO SHIPS.



IT ONLY LASTS A FEW MINUTES, BUT THAT'S ALL THE TIME THE X-MEN NEED.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE JAPANESE CREW ARE SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY THEIR CATCH.



I THINK THEY'RE AMERICANS. IN THOSE COSTUMES, THEY COULD BE SHIELD, OR AVENGERS.

SILENCE, TAKEDA.

I AM CAPTAIN HAMA. WELCOME ABOARD THE JINGUCHI MARU.



THANK YOU FOR RESCUING US, CAPTAIN. I'M CYCLOPS. MY FRIENDS AND I ARE THE X-MEN!

IT'S IMPORTANT WE CONTACT...

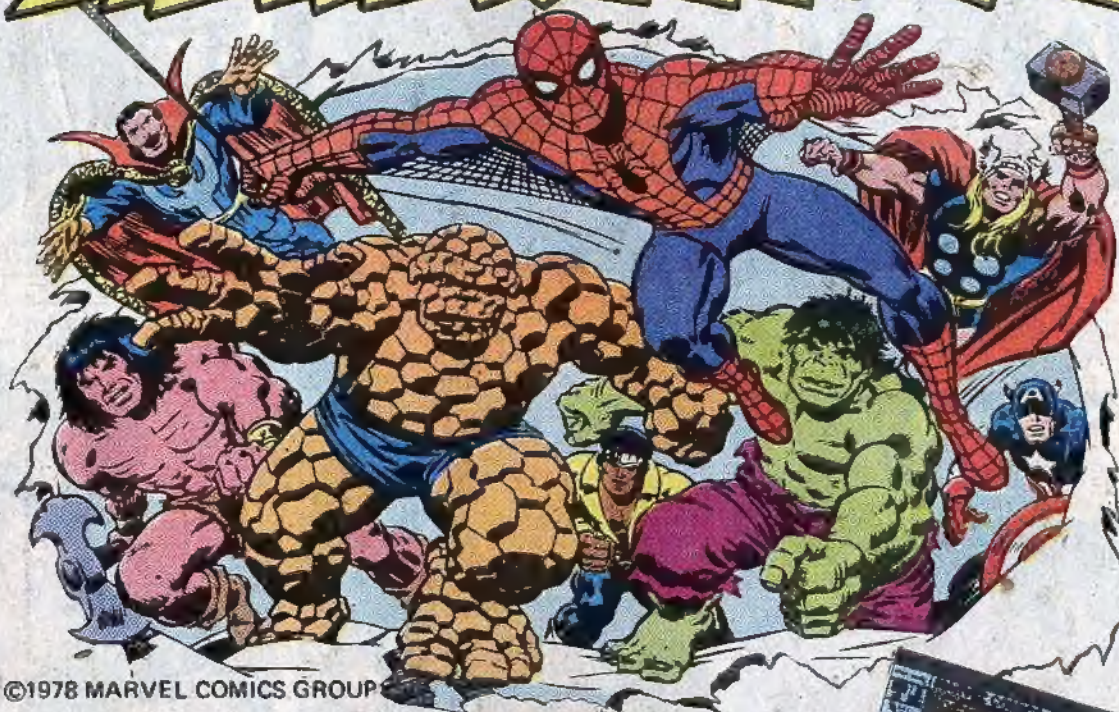
I AM SORRY, BUT UNAUTHORIZED RADIO COMMUNICATION IS FORBIDDEN. WE ARE ON A GOVERNMENT MISSION OF SOME... DELICACY.



I AM AFRAID THAT UNTIL WE REACH JAPAN, I MUST INSIST THAT YOU REMAIN OUR... GUESTS.

TAKEDA, TAKE THEM BELOW.

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...IT'S A TIME FOR FAREWELLS.



MY TAXI'S WAITING. I'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WILL NOT STAY, JEAN?

I CAN'T, LILANDRA. THERE ARE TOO MANY MEMORIES IN THIS HOUSE.



I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THE FACT THAT SCOTT AND THE X-MEN ARE DEAD.*

I CAN'T DO THAT HERE.

*AS FAR AS JEAN KNOWS. SEE X-MEN #14--R.

WITH A FINAL EMBRACE, THE TWO FRIENDS PART, AND A DOOR CLOSES ON A PORTION OF JEAN GREY'S LIFE, PERHAPS FOREVER.



SHE IS TOO YOUNG TO HAVE SUCH RESOLUTION IN HER EYES.

I KNOW SOME OF WHAT SHE FEELS, THOUGH I KNEW THE X-MEN FOR ONLY A SHORT TIME...



...AND MOSTLY THROUGH CHARLES.

CHARLES...

STRANGE, THE TRICKS FATE PLAYS ON ONE. I HAD MY PICK OF THE FINEST CONSORTS IN MY GALAXY, YET I LOST MY HEART TO CHARLES XAVIER.



WE ARE SO DIFFERENT, HE AND I... YET WITH HIM, I AM HAPPY.

NOW, IF I CAN ONLY REMEMBER HOW TO PREPARE THIS BREW HE LIKES SO MUCH.





SOMETIME LATER...

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR SMALL FAVORS. EARTH'S TECHNOLOGY MAY BE HOPELESSLY PRIMITIVE...

...BUT AT LEAST I CAN METABOLIZE THE LOCAL FOOD.

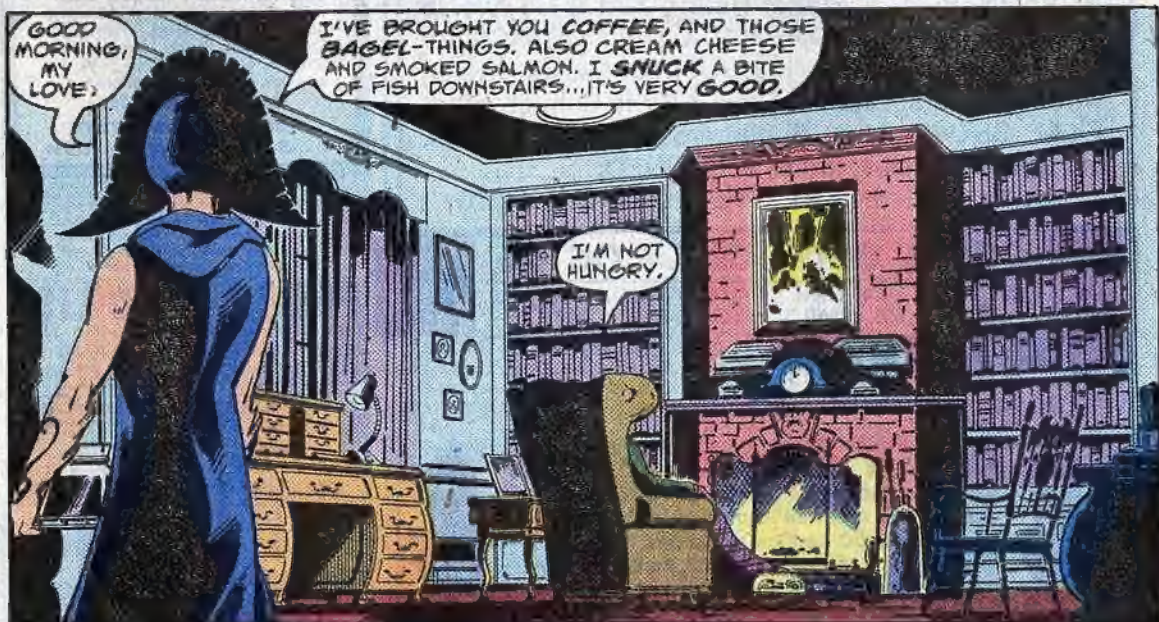


I WISH THAT WAS THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS.

CHARLES HAS BEEN WITHDRAWING MORE AND MORE INTO HIMSELF THESE PAST WEEKS. HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME IN HIS STUDY STARING INTO THE FIRE.



CHARLES, IT'S LILANDRA.



GOOD MORNING, MY LOVE.

I'VE BROUGHT YOU COFFEE, AND THOSE BAGEL-THINGS. ALSO CREAM CHEESE AND SMOKED SALMON. I SNUCK A BITE OF FISH DOWNSTAIRS...IT'S VERY GOOD.

I'M NOT HUNGRY.



ALL THINGS DIE, CHARLES. AND NOT ALWAYS AT THE TIME OR IN THE MANNER OF OUR CHOOSING.

I KNOW.

BUT I KEEP THINKING --IF I'D NEVER FORMED THE X-MEN-- IF I'D ONLY LET THEM LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES IN PEACE!



I KEEP GOING BACK TO THE BEGINNING...

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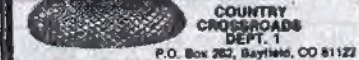
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"I WAS WORKING TOWARDS MY DOCTORATE WHEN I MET MOIRA MACTAGGERT. I WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FOR BOTH OF US. THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED WERE THE HAPPIEST OF MY LIFE. WE TALKED OF MARRIAGE.

"BUT JUST BEFORE THAT TALK BECAME REALITY, I WAS DRAFTED. MOIRA PROMISED TO WAIT.

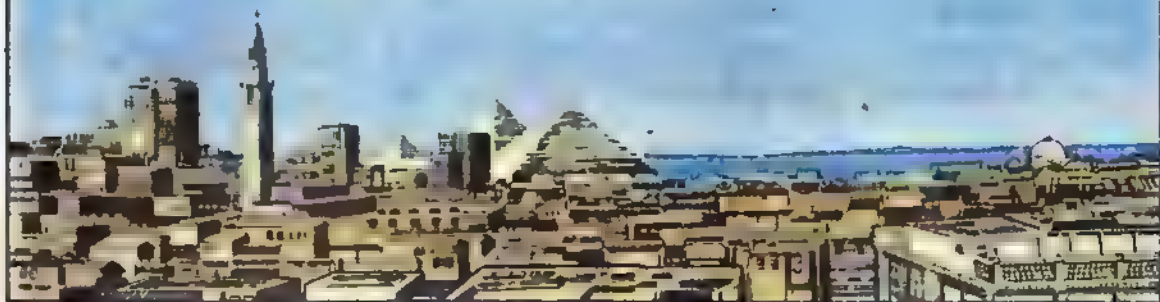
"I WAS IN HOSPITAL, RECOVERING FROM BATTLE-FIELD WOUNDS, WHEN I GOT HER LETTER. SHE WAS BREAKING HER ENGAGEMENT, RETURNING TO SCOTLAND. SHE WOULDN'T SAY WHY AND SHE ASKED ME NOT TO FOLLOW HER.

"I WENT A LITTLE CRAZY, THEN I BECAME A WILD BURNING AGAINST THE MILITARY. IN AN EVENTUALITY, I CAME TO THE ISLE OF KIRINOS."

"THE PEOPLE THERE NEEDED MY HELP... IN RETURN THEY GAVE ME THE CARE AND LOVE I NEEDED TO BURN THE PSYCHIC POISON OUT OF MY SYSTEM.

"IN TIME, MORE A WHOLE MAN THAN I'D BEEN IN AGES, I LEFT KIRINOS AND MOVED ON TO CAIRO."

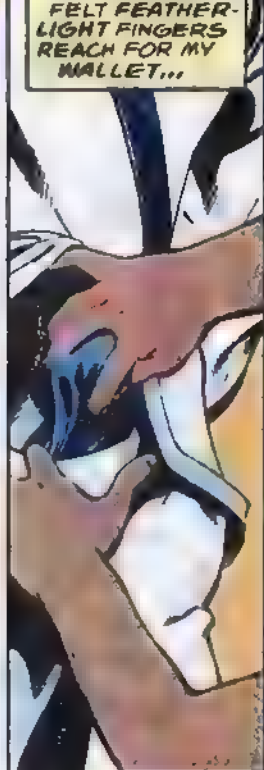
"THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR RHYME NOR REASON TO MY ACTIONS I WAS YOUNG, I HAD MONEY -AND I HAD NO REAL DESIRE TO RETURN TO THE STATES, AND MY RESEARCH INTO GENETIC MUTATION."



"THERE WERE STILL TOO MANY PIECES IN MY LIFE I HAD TO SORT OUT BEFORE I COULD BEGIN TO WORK EFFECTIVELY AGAIN."

"I HAD NO IDEA, AS I STROLLED THROUGH THE CITY'S MAIN BAZAAR, THAT I WAS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED."

"BEFORE I KNEW THAT ANYTHING WAS AMISS, I FELT FEATHER-LIGHT FINGERS REACH FOR MY WALLET..."

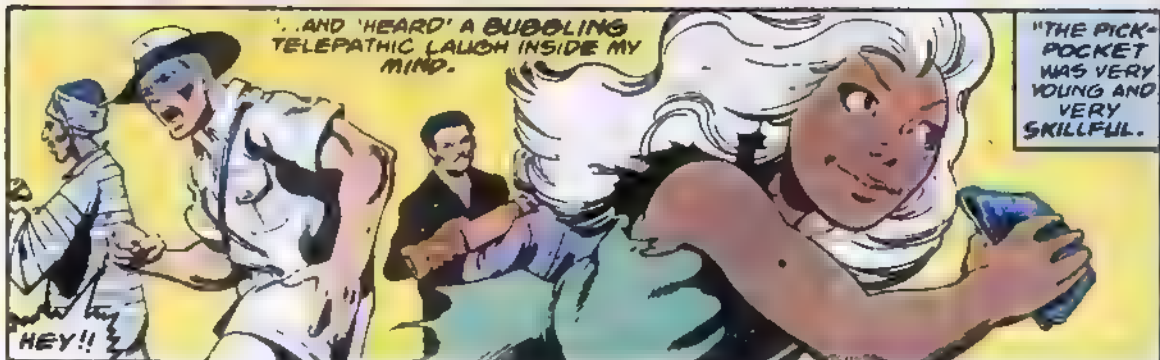


BESIDES I WAS NOW ENJOYING MY VACATION

"I WASN'T EXPECTING TROUBLE, AND I'D LET MY PSYCHIC GUARD SLIP A LITTLE."

"...AND 'HEARD' A BUBBLING TELEPATHIC LAUGH INSIDE MY MIND."

"THE PICK-POCKET WAS VERY YOUNG AND VERY SKILLFUL."



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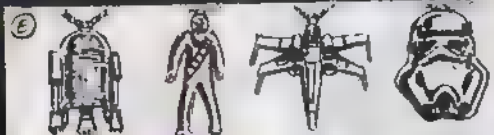
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"I GAVE CHASE, I ALMOST LOST HER A COUPLE OF TIMES--SHE KNEW THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND COULD SLIP THROUGH OPENINGS I COULDN'T.

"I USED MY MENTAL POWERS TO KEEP TRACK OF HER BUT THAT SOON PROVED HARDER THAN I'D ANTICIPATED

"ON A DESERTED SIDE-STREET, I STOPPED HER WITH A GENTLE FORCE BOLT



THERE WAS FAR MORE TO THIS GIRL THAN MET THE EYE

OH!

"IT WASN'T UNTIL I SOUGHT MY NEW X-MEN YEARS LATER, THAT I REALIZED MY LITTLE PICK-POCKET WAS STORM.

"I RECOGNIZED HER LATENT MUTANT TALENT, AND OPENED MY MIND TO PROBE FURTHER



AARRGH!



"... WHEN, WITHOUT WARNING, I WAS SMASHED DOWN BY A PSYCHIC BOLT.

"WHEN I RECOVERED MY SENSES, STORM HAD VANISHED.

OH--MY HEAD! I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED SUCH RAW POWER... OR SUCH MALEVOLENCE.

"THE PSYCHIC NEXUS WAS WITHIN A NEARBY SALOON ..

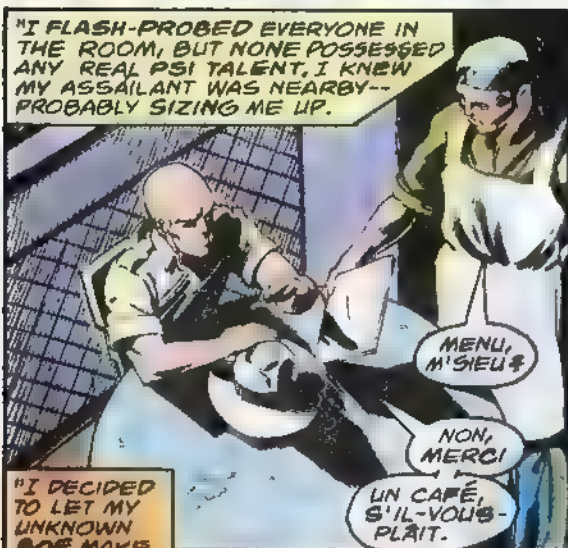


"ON GUARD, MY SHIELDS UP AND READY, I ENTERED THE BAR. THE ATTACK OUTSIDE HAD BEEN INTENTIONAL. SOMEONE HAD SENSED MY POWER WHEN I STOPPED THE GIRL AND HAD DELIVERED A VERY BLUNT WARNING.

"THE ROOM WAS DARK AND QUIET AND ALMOST EMPTY--YET THERE WAS AN UNMISTAKABLE UNDERCURRENT OF TENSION, AND OF FEAR, AS WELL.



"I FLASH-PROBED EVERYONE IN THE ROOM, BUT NONE POSSESSED ANY REAL PSI TALENT, I KNEW MY ASSAILANT WAS NEARBY--PROBABLY SIZING ME UP.

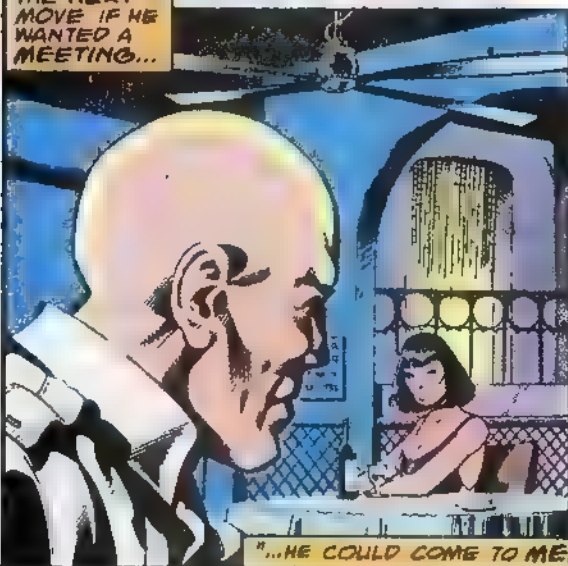


MENU, M'SIEU?

NON, MERCI

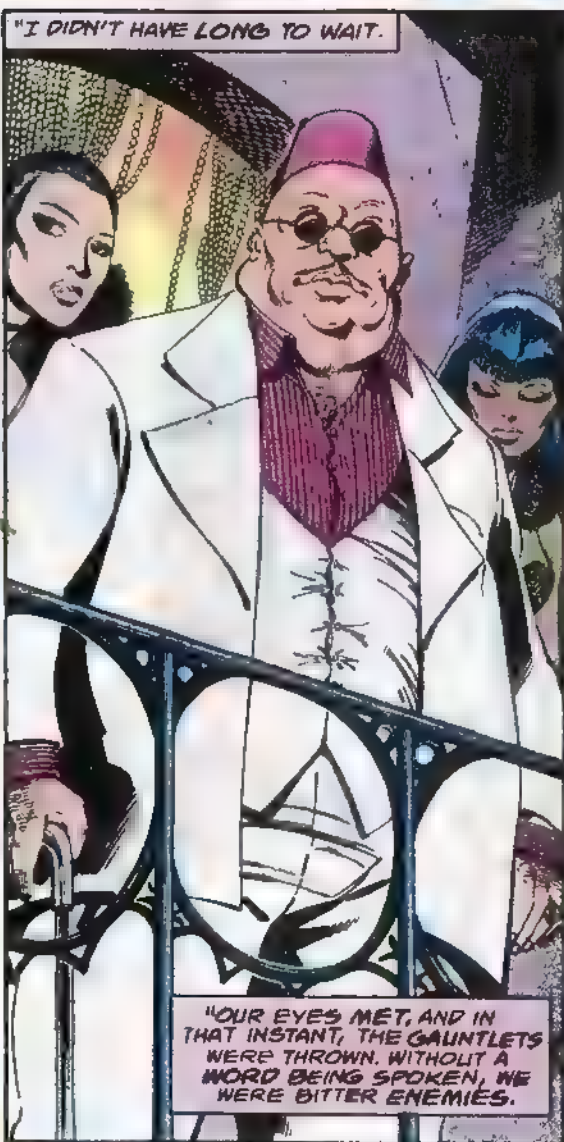
UN CAFÉ, S'IL-VOUS-PLAÎT.

"I DECIDED TO LET MY UNKNOWN FOE MAKE THE NEXT MOVE IF HE WANTED A MEETING...



"...HE COULD COME TO ME.

"I DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT.



"OUR EYES MET, AND IN THAT INSTANT, THE GAUNTLETS WERE THROWN. WITHOUT A WORD BEING SPOKEN, WE WERE BITTER ENEMIES.

"WE SPOKE MIND-TO-MIND, AND MY SKIN CRAWLED AS I FELT HIS THOUGHTS IT WAS LIKE SWIMMING IN A SEA OF MAGGOTS."

I AM AMAHL FAROUK. I RULE WHAT YOU TOURISTS LIKE TO CALL THE THIEVES' QUARTER.

WHO ARE YOU, MY FRIEND?

A STRANGER

I DID YOU WELCOME, "STRANGER." I OWN THIS ESTABLISHMENT SHOULD YOU WISH TO PARTAKE OF ANY OF ITS MANIFOLD... DELIGHTS... YOU HAVE BUT TO ASK.

THANK YOU-- NO

I SENSE WE ARE KINDRED SPIRITS, YOU AND I JOIN ME, STRANGER I WILL SHOW YOU PLEASURE--AND POWER--BEYOND YOUR WILDEST IMAGININGS!

YOUR LOSS

AT WHAT COST TO YOUR VICTIMS, THIEVE-MASTER?

DOES THE LION CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THE FEELINGS OF HIS PREY?

HE TAKES WHAT IS HIS BY RIGHT--AS DO I! MANY HAVE TRIED TO STOP ME--ALL HAVE LIVED TO REGRET IT

YOU AND I ARE MUTANTS--TELEPATHS TRUE, WE HAVE EXCEPTIONAL ABILITIES, BUT WE ALSO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO USE THOSE ABILITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR FELLOW MAN

WE'RE NO KINDRED SPIRITS, AMAHL FAROUK, AND I SWEAR I WILL NOT REST UNTIL YOU'RE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR YOUR CRIMES!

SO BE IT.

"I KNEW I WAS RUNNING A FEARFUL RISK, AS MY ASTRAL FORM SLIPPED FREE OF MY BODY I HAD NEVER EVEN MET ANOTHER TELEPATH BEFORE.



"NOW, I WAS PREPARING TO FIGHT ONE TO THE DEATH.

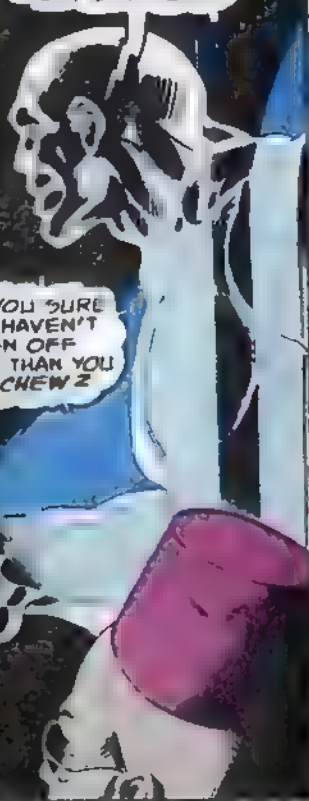
"IN MY HEART, THOUGH, I KNEW I HAD NO ALTERNATIVE.



ONLY A FOOL IS WITHOUT FEAR, AMAHL FAROUK.

I SENSE FEAR IN YOU, STRANGER

ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW?



A FOOL--OR A CORPSE!

"WITH A LAUGH, HE CAPTURED

"... AND REALITY TWISTED INSIDE-OUT AROUND US THE DARK CONFINES OF FAROUK'S SALOON GIVING WAY TO...

...SOMETHING ELSE.

SINCE I AM THE CHALLENGED PARTY, I TRUST YOU WILL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO MY CHOOSING THE SITE OF OUR DUEL

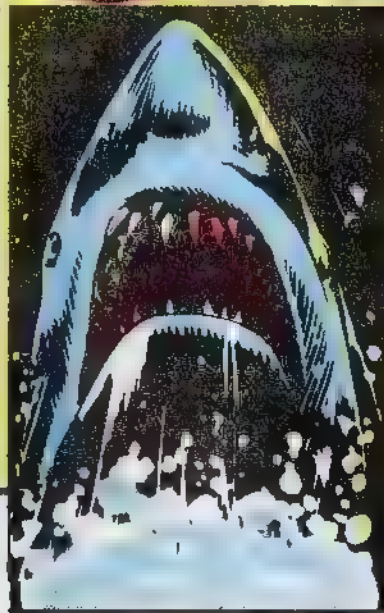


MOST IMPRESSIVE, IS IT NOT?

IT IS-- BUT WHY BOTHER? IS HE REALLY SO POWERFUL THAT HE CAN WASTE PSI-ENERGY ON GLORIFIED SPECIAL EFFECTS?

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THE WATERS WERE SAFE AGAIN...

JAWS 2



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37

Remember How Many Times You Felt Left Out



Because You Were BROKE!

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ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear X: extraordinary X Men.

I have some good news for those who are not-so-good English students, I found a way that makes those English projects and assignments less painful. Use the X Men! That's right, I said use the X Men! What I mean is that you should write stories about your favorite X Men for example when you have to write about the person you admire most use an X Man. I got the idea when I had to do an English poster using the Banshee and the other X Men. My favorite is Nightcrawler, he's so dreamy and super cute. But I don't think he would look right saying "Ye don't need the luck o' the Irish to be good in English." I hope my tips help.

Suzan Kizzer
137 Pans Cove
Hernando MS 38632

So do we, Suzan. If our books can help even one reader learn to read or speak or write English better than that's the greatest possible compliment anyone could pay us. Keep at it. I'll lady we're looking forward to hearing from you again.

Dear X: crying People

I love all of you talented X people really I do. It just seems like I am more moved to write when I'm upset over something than when I'm happy with something. I love the X Men. They are super people in every sense of the word, they would be super even if they were powerless. The scripting is brilliant, the art excellent. The X MEN are among my Top 5 favorite comic books out today. However, I do not like the way you have been handling Phoenix for the past few issues. I had such high hopes for her.

Marvel Girl was a mess, she was hopeless. She didn't have enough power to whip a paper bag. Most of your heroes (and heroines) are just not all that powerful. I know that is one of Marvel's main policies, a weak hero is more sympathetic, more 'realistic'. But sometimes you go too far, your heroes are too weak. All of your major villains (Dr. Doom, Magneto, Galactus, the Molecule Man, etc.) are so much more powerful than any of your heroes. I get so very tired of all my favorite heroes constantly getting the stuffing knocked out of them by every Tom, Dick, and Magneto that comes along. That's why I was SO EXCITED by the creation of Phoenix. At long last a POWERFUL, super hero and a woman at that! "What could be more wonderful?" Phoenix' battle with Firelord in X Men #106 confirmed my happy suspicions, a truly SUPER super heroine had FINALLY been introduced in a Marvel mag! HURRAY! HURRAY! Then in X Men #108, her magnificent powers saved the entire universe! I was ECSTATIC!! She was my kind of heroine! And then it started. The gradual deterioration of my happy hopes and Phoenix' power. Sigh. In #110 her powers faded (or, and me!) completely when she faced Warhawk. That was bad enough, but now in #112, while fighting Magneto, she reaches the limits of her power. I HATED that! I want a superheroine of limitless power. She could still be vulnerable, she could still be beaten. It would just take more ingenuity than sheer raw power to beat her. I don't want a Superman perfect hero. I'm not advocating that. I just want a heroine who is special. I thought Phoenix was going to be her. Apparently I am wrong. If a writer is clever enough (and you are, Chris!) he can find a way to have a staggeringly powerful hero (or heroine) be human, sympathetic, and most of all, beatable by the right villain. Just think what a boost to the villain's ego it would be to beat an extraordinarily powerful foe. They would love it! Please stop introducing so many new weaknesses to Phoenix. Why can't Marvel have at least one super heroine worthy of the name??? Women are not necessarily the 'Weaker Sex'. They are what you make them, at least in comic books.

Brenda Robnett
2309 Calvin Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

An impassioned plea, Brenda, we wish we had the time and space to give it the answer it deserves. For the nonce though, we're curious as to how many other readers agree with your comments about Phoenix disagree with them, have no opinion. Let us know, folks, we'd appreciate it.

Dear Chris and John,

Re X MEN #112 WOW!!!!!!

Joel D. Cochran
7 Partridge Rd
Lexington, MA 02173

People

X MEN #112? What a wonderful way to go monthly!

Carl J. Ratigan
Miami, FL 33189

Dear X: People

We drooled over X MEN #112 and bought (well, actually borrowed) two copies from our neighborhood newstand. Wanna know why we did all this? Because:

1) Magnificent Magneto seized the Inferior X Men.

2) Maggy made fools of the Mexican Air Force.

3) WE LOVED his technologically advanced underground complex.

4) He defeated the X Men in an all out battle without even raising a sweat.

5) Magneto humiliated the X Fools by putting them in shackles.

In other words, Magneto was at his best! Thanks a lot, Chris and John!!

The Evil Mutants Fan Club
4443 N. Grace St.
Schiller Pk. IL 60176

It takes all kinds, from nice guys like Joel and Carl to out-and-out wackos like these Evil Mutant fans—though we have to confess a sneaking admiration ourselves for the Master of Magnetism. Only one problem, fellas—if you'll peruse your geography texts, you'll find that Mexico and the Amazon basin are about a thousand miles apart. Wherever that interceptor came from, it wasn't Mexico.

Dear Sirs,

I have just finished the latest issue of one of the best comics on the market today (X MEN #112). When I read last issue, I thought it was fantastic and I wanted to write in about it, but I never got around to it. But after reading this I knew I had to write in, because this issue absolutely baffled me with its genius, shown by Messrs. Claremont and Byrne. There have been many mags I've wanted to write to— from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN to the AVENGERS—but this is the first mag that has ever moved me enough to write in.

I hate to be biased, but I am willing to say that John Byrne is the best penciler commonly seen today. I'm not sure how much the writer influences the artist, but those undersea complex sequences are absolute genius. Besides John's art, I believe Terry Austin is my favorite inker in color comics. I thought his work in STAR WARS was great, but this tops all—his style blends with John's art beautifully.

As for Chris' writing, I'm afraid I've exhausted my compliments, but even so, I must admit it is excellent. He brings life and realism into his comics more than most of the best writers. He brings the world of comics closer to realism than any other writer, with a few possible exceptions. His characters never seem stiff or fake.

Although I seem to be nothing but exceptions, I can honestly believe and say that the best trio in comics today is Claremont, Byrne, Austin.

Alex Dent
4431 Laurel Grove
Studio City, CA 91604

Alex, it's letters like yours that make an armadillo's day, and we thank you for it. Your comments about John and Terry are echoed by none other than *Cheerful Chris* himself.

NEXT ISSUE An irresistible force meets a very moveable object with the X Men caught in the middle and over a hundred million lives hanging in the balance. Be here in 30, people, you'll be just in time for the **'THE SUBMERGENCE OF JAPAN'**

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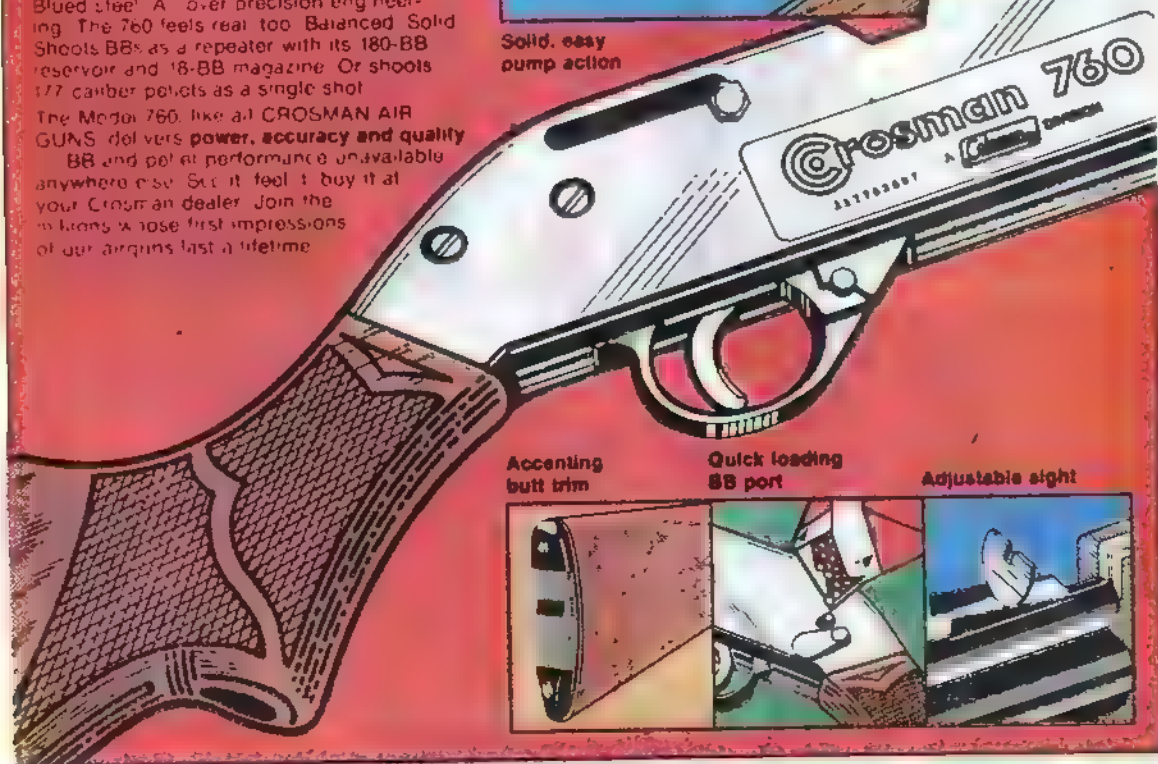
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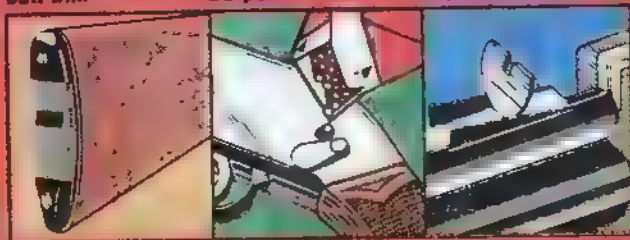
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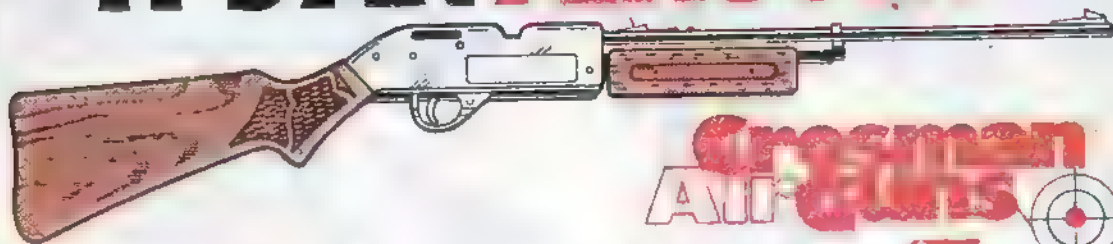
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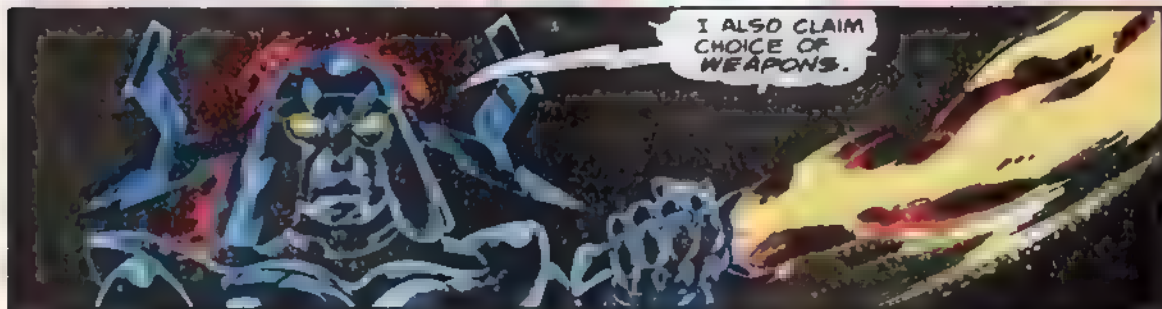
THIS IS LIKE MY FIRST NIGHT PATROL IN KOREA
I WAS SO SCARED I COULDN'T THINK STRAIGHT--AND
THE WORST THING ABOUT IT WAS THE SUSPENSE...

...KNOWING THE ENEMY WAS OUT
THERE, SOMEWHERE, WONDERING
WHEN HE WOULD ATTACK.

AND,
INFIDEL,
AS THE
CHALLENGED
PARTY..



I ALSO CLAIM
CHOICE OF
WEAPONS.



EN GARDE,
STRANGER!




"HIS FIRST
STRIKE
MISSED..."

"...AND IN THE SPLI INSTANT IT TOOK HIM TO RECOVER,
I HAD MY OWN SET OF PSYCHIC ARMOR AND
WEAPONRY.

OUR POWER SEEMS
EQUAL, AND I'M PARRYING
EVERY THRUST--WHY DO I
GET THE FEELING THAT
FAROUK IS LAUGHING
AT ME...



...THAT I'M
PLAYING INTO
HIS HANDS?!



FOR ALL YOUR BLUSTER
AND BRAVADO, STRANGER,
I THINK YOU'RE
A NOVICE.

YOU FIGHT WELL WITH A
SWORD, BUT THAT SKILL
IS ONLY AN ILLUSION.
THE "GREAT GAME" IS
PLAYED ON A
THOUSAND DIFFERENT
LEVELS, ALL AT
ONCE!

I CAN FLIP FROM LEVEL
TO LEVEL WITH THE SPEED
OF THOUGHT. BY THE TIME
YOU'VE COUNTERED ONE
STRATEGY, I'VE GONE
ON TO SOMETHING ELSE!

HE'S
RIGHT.

MY SHIELDS
ARE HOLDING,
BUT THE STRAIN
IS INCREDIBLE!

...AND THE
ONLY NATURAL
LAWS ARE THE
LIMITS OF MY
IMAGINATION!

WHAT DOES HE
MEAN?! GOOD
LORD! HIS BEAM
--IT'S CURLING
AROUND ME--!

FAROUK'S
TAUNTING ME,
MIXING TRUTH AND
HALF-TRUTH AND
FALSEHOOD--ONLY
I CAN'T TELL WHICH
IS WHICH!

AARRRGH!

SHIELDS MAY
PROTECT YOU
FROM A
FRONTAL ATTACK,
BUT THIS IS A
DOMAIN OF
THE MIND...

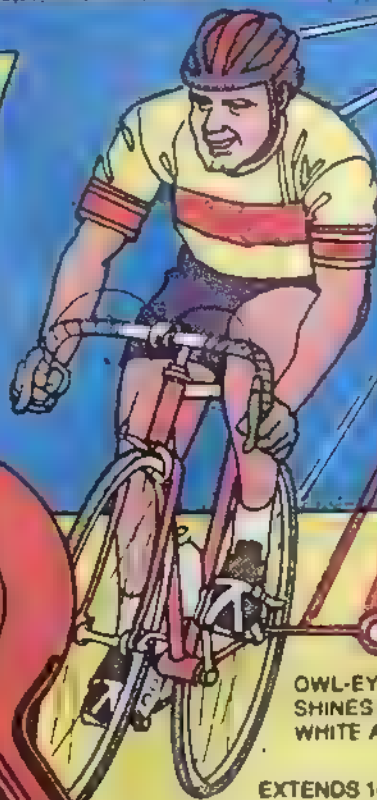
"IN THE SALOON, MY
BODY STIFFENED,
THE BACK OF MY
JACKET ALL BLACK
AND CHARRED...

"AS IF IT HAD
BEEN SEARED BY
AN OPEN FLAME."

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WHEN YOU
HEAR ONE
CRUNCH!

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Wing.

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I'M LOSING AND I'LL KEEP LOSING SO LONG AS I KEEP FIGHTING ON YOUR TERMS.

I'VE OPEN
UP MYSELF
THIS TIME
AND I'VE
WOUND UP
PHYSICAL
PAIN. I'VE NO
TOLERANCE
FOR ANYTHING
AT ALL.

WHEAT A. "MAY" FERRY
MAY 1955 5 MA 1955
- 10 MAY 1955

THE WAR WITH SPAIN WILL
BE INSTANTANEOUS BUT
WITHIN TWO MONTHS IT WILL BE
OVER AND NO MORE FIGHTING ANYMORE

"I DIDN'T TRY TO STOP HIM I TURNED MY CONCENTRATION INWARDS, CALMING MYSELF CLEARING MY MIND OF A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION."

"IT'S BEEN AT LEAST
FIVE YEARS SINCE I'D
BEEN OUTSIDE OF
THE HOUSE. THE JOY
OF LIFE I WON'T
WANT TO LIVE

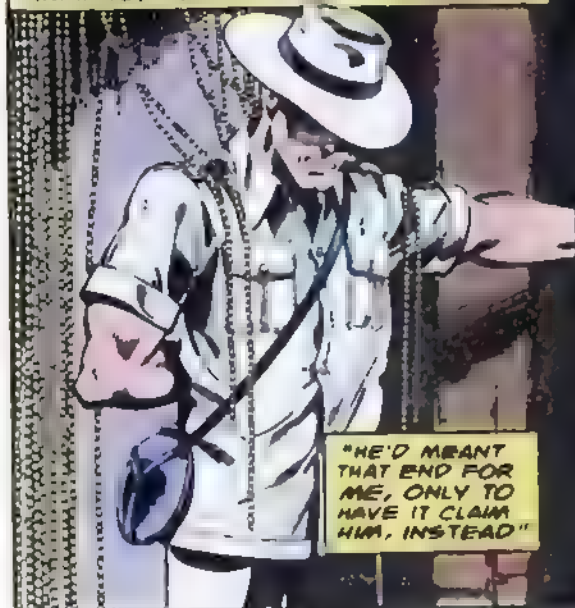
"PAROLIN CHANGED FORMS LIKE A CHAMELEON,
SAID THE NEW YORK TIMES. "HE WAS THE ONLY BEING OF
KIND IN ALL OF THE 55,000 MILES OF THE
AFTERMATH OF A BOMB OF INCREDIBLE
SIZE."

AND SHOT IT INTO
PARADES & PRINCE LIKE
A LASER

WAS OVER IN AN INSTANT
THEY WERE A SINGLE BUNCH OF
LIGHT LIKE A SUPER-NOVA...



"AS I LEFT, I REMEMBERED FAROUK'S LAST WORDS, THAT PHYSICAL DEATH WOULD BE INSTANTANEOUS, BUT THAT IN THE MIND, IT WOULD TAKE FOREVER 'INFINITE, NEVER-ENDING AGONY.'"



I WAS IN HIS MIND WHEN HE DIED. IT WAS LIKE A GUIDED TOUR OF HELL.

AMARIL FAROUK WAS THE FIRST EVIL MUTANT I'D EVER MET, THE FIRST WHO MADE ME REALIZE HOW TRULY DEADLY MUTANT POWERS COULD BE IN THE WRONG HANDS.



BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

You know something? I thought I was making life easier for myself when I asked you to send me ideas for things to write about here in the Soapbox. But you can't win! Now it takes longer to read all the letters than it used to take to think up my own subjects! But I shouldn't really complain because some of your suggestions and ideas are really great. However, no matter how strongly you suggest it, I absolutely won't trade jobs with Irving Forbush, so stop sending those petitions, huh? (I didn't know of Irving had so many friends—who know how to write!) Anyhow, here's a question that's cropped up in many many of your letters so I might as well tackle it right now. How do you explain the fact that mighty Marvel is so much better than its Distinguished Competition? (Boy, doesn't why I pick the tough ones!)

First of all, while I appreciate the implication inherent in the question, I must—in full fairness—reject it. We do our stories in a certain style, and they do theirs in their own way. To call one style "better" or "worse" is just a mat-

ter of opinion. Our competitors and that includes Archie Comics, Harvey Comics, and Gold Key, as well as DC, all have tremendously talented and capable artists and writers producing their books. In fact, many people working for other comic-book companies used to work for us. I once quit or offer and may do so again. A great many of them are long-time personal friends of ours. Some have learned their trade in the Marvel Bullpen, and some have helped to teach us ours.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, sure we want Marvel to be your favorite comicbooks, and sure we'll knock ourselves out to produce the best stories and artwork in the field. But we don't wanna succeed at anyone else's expense. We don't want you to feel you have to knock the other guy in order to believe in us. The better our competition is, the more it keeps us on our toes, and the more you'll profit by it.

Okay, now that I've finished putting in my pitch for all the great guys and gals who told us our little story-book world, let me admit that no one enjoys some friendly rivalry and spirited competi-

tion more than we do. Just so you can remember that, it's worth noting. Friendly. Our competitors are all good guys. They can't help it if Marvel's the way we're set. They go right!

Anyway, now that I've ended it, excepting except or I promise that next issue I'll give you a serious opinion as to the real difference in editorial approach and attitude between our competitors and Marvel. Remember, it's just be one guy's opinion, but I think you may find it interesting. So I'll then remember—we all need each other. Even a superhero can't do it alone.

FROM STAN



P.S. After I got it's whole thing written, I remembered that I said that this time we'd answer the question "Is Irving Forbush a real person?" And now there's no room! You never fear. We'll get to that after next month's column. But I give you two more nights to figure out the answer yourself!

ITEM! Did you hear that Marvel's latest entry in the humor field is becoming the magazine sensation of the year? Fans describe PIZZAZZ as sort of a cross between Crap and the Lampoon. PIZZAZZ was originally planned just for the younger teenage reader, but you can't keep a dynamite idea under wraps for long—so now everybody's getting into it! It may sound like "pizza" with a couple of extra "z's," but if you really want to blow your mind with the most colorful slick paper mag in town, just call for PIZZAZZ! Only 75¢. Hurry, before we come to our senses!

ITEM! Let's face it: nobody hits a home run every time he goes to bat. Even the mighty House of Ideas can't claim to be perfect. Every single issue of say DAREDEVIL or even the FANTASTIC FOUR flagship of our line isn't always going to turn out to be as wonderful as we all hoped. Under the awesome pressure of monthly deadlines every once in a while, something just doesn't work out right, and we have to settle for a triple or a double instead of the four-bagger. It isn't for lack of trying, guys, believe us! And of course, it makes us feel all the more proud and happy when the creative combos are clicking, and we do come up with a real bases-loaded circuit blast! Like what, for instance, you inquire? Well, I... We're so glad you asked!

ITEM! Marvel Super Special #7, featuring the comics adaptation of box office blockbuster JAWS II, is without a doubt the most dazzling comics magazine produced in recent history. It may well be the most beautiful comics magazine ever created! That's quite a statement we realize, and yet we make it with utter confidence. In fact, we're so delighted and proud of this masterpiece of our craft that we're going to dispense with the hard sell and take the space to thank those responsible. Our sincerest to Gentleman GENE COLAN for his powerful penciling to make our IRV-

WATANABE for his neat precision linework, and for his stunning masterful airbrush coloring the like of which we have never seen. Thanks also to Bartlin BOB LARKIN for the inspired cover painting, and special thanks and congratulations to offset editor Rakish RICK MARSHALL who not only coordinated the free-lancers' efforts with the not inconsiderable contributions of the Marvel Creative Staff, but found time to write the adaptation as well. JAWS II, in full, glorious color is on sale everywhere now! We wish we could just give everybody a copy, we're that proud, but go ahead, spend the \$1.50. You won't regret it!

ITEM! Not content with merely one box office smash adaptation, somehow in the midst of our usual chaos we managed to fit in another full-color Masterpiece! We'll give you a hint: it's about the hottest rock n' roll of the year featuring stars like Peter Frampton, The Bee Gees, and George Burns. It's musical, musical, and was inspired by the greatest rock group of us all! Those of you who guessed *The Jasha Heitz Story* can go back to dusting their Racthemund! albums. Those of you who correctly assumed we meant SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND, please step to the head of the class, then out the door and to your newsstand! Take a buck and a half. With you ask for Marvel Super Special #6, and don't take no for an answer! We can't wait to hear your reaction to the wonderful work of DAVE (the Dude) KRAFT, GEORGE (Pacesetter) PEREZ, JIM (Madman) MOONEY, and the rest of our crack creative team!

ITEM! Yes, there's more—the most requested encore in Marvel history to be exact! Once again, it's KISS, the fiercest, most fabulous, most fantastic rock group ever appearing in Marvel Super Special #6! It's a full-blazing

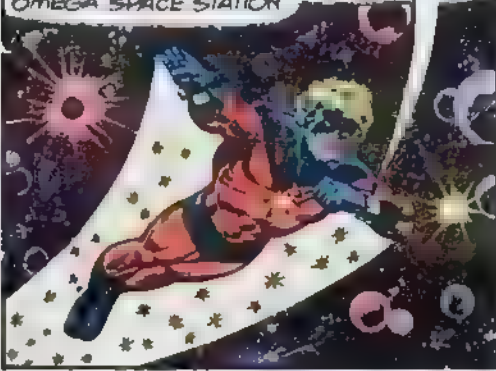
color match, and you guessed it, it'll set you back a hundred and fifty pennies, but the Bob Larkin cover alone is worth the price! Inside, Reluctant RALPH MACCHIO, Jett-propelled JOHN ROMITA JR. and Traitorization TONY DEZUNIGA have combined to create a sizzling story with absolutely unbelievable visuals. We've sworn not to reveal the stunning shock-ending of the tale, but we didn't promise not to tell about the magnificent bonus fold-out poster in each and every copy. You've got to see it to believe it, but unless you hurry up and grab one, this will be gone!

ITEM! Still more? You bet! We've got yet another Super Special (#8) coming out any minute, but the whole project's so darn secret, we dare not to do more than mention it. A word to the wise: watch your TV listings and your local newsstand for BATTLE STAR GALACTICA! Night and!

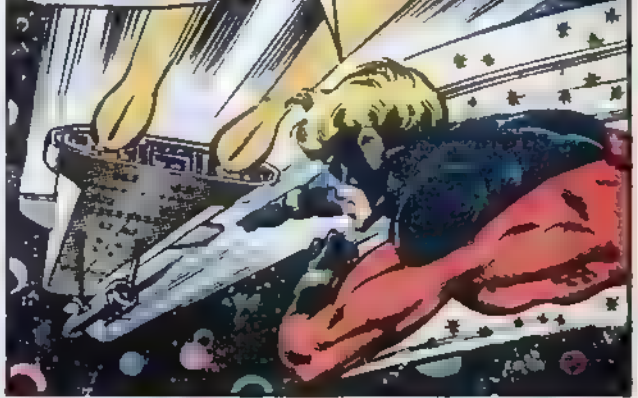
ITEM! Just in case you think we've forgotten our roots, we happen to remember you that yes, we still publish our regular line of 35¢ color comics, and make no mistake, we love 'em best of all! We haven't lost our sense of wonder, nor our pride in the magnificent magazines that made Marvel! Check out Daredevil #156 if you don't believe us, and prepare to be dazzled by the Gene Colan Klaus Janson art! And there's a whole new team giving BLACK PANTHER #13 a whole new look that's really worth a look! FANTASTIC FOUR #202 features the most demanded guest penciler ever (guess who!) and it's just plain great! And if you haven't noticed X-MEN lately, you're missing the most talked about ever unfolding epic since the dawn of time. In this day and age, who'd have believed that 35¢ could still buy all that excitement! So what are you waiting for?

CAPTAIN MARVEL™ MEETS THE DREADNOUGHT

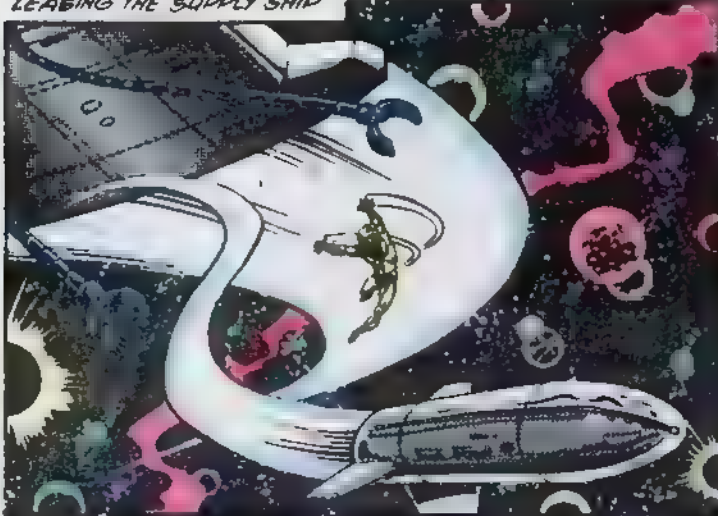
THEY DID IT AGAIN, CAPTAIN MARVEL! THE DREADNOUGHT RAIDER JUST HIJACKED ANOTHER AUTOMATED SUPPLY SHIP TO THE OMEGA SPACE STATION



I SEE THE DREADNOUGHT AHEAD... WITH ITS VICTIM



EXERTING HIS TREMENDOUS STRENGTH, THE KREE WARRIOR PROPELS THE RAIDER SHIP INTO ANOTHER GALAXY, RE-LEAVING THE SUPPLY SHIP



CAPTAIN MARVEL, YOU'VE DRIVEN THE DREADNOUGHT RAIDER OFF... OUR SUPPLY SHIPS WILL BE SAFE IN THE FUTURE



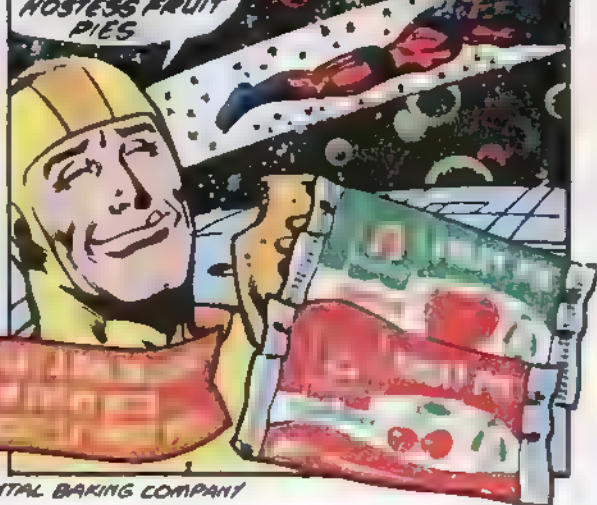
BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU RESCUED OUR SHIPMENT OF NOSTESS® FRUIT PIES. I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER ENJOY THESE APPLE OR CHERRY PIES AGAIN

NOW WE CAN ENJOY THIS LIGHT TENDER CRUST...

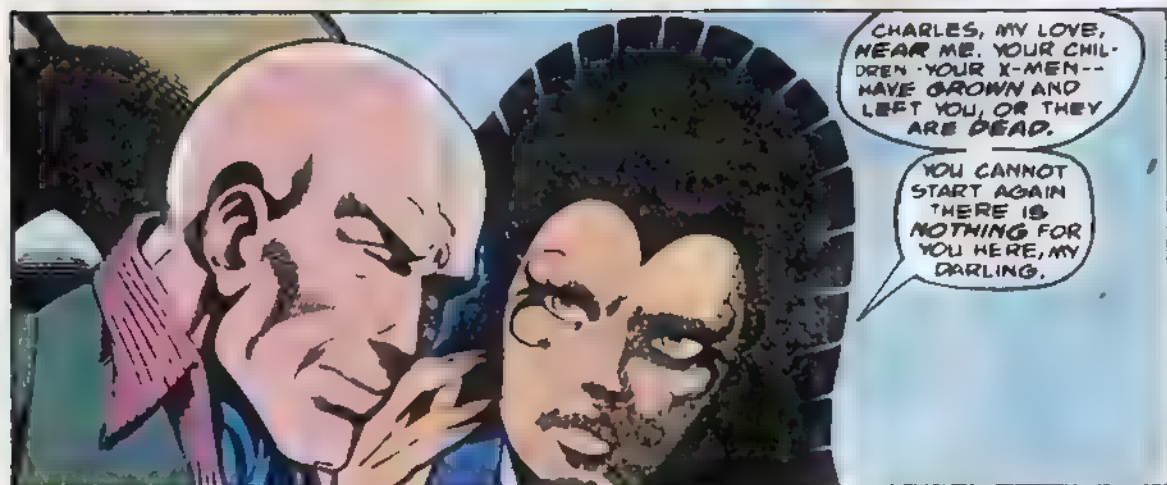
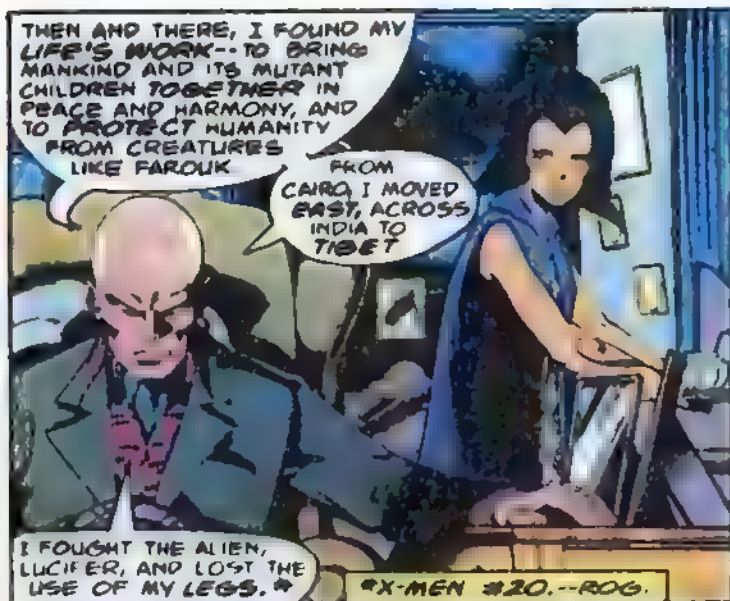
...AND THE REAL FRUIT FILLING!



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EPILOGUE--KENNEDY
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
LATER THAT AFTERNOON...

J-A-L FLIGHT 200, NON-STOP
TO TOKYO, NOW BOARDING...

WELL NOW, WHAT'S A NICE GAL
LIKE YOU DOING IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS?



HUH--?!
MISTY
KNIGHT!

YOU GOT IT, RED. YOUR
ERSTWHILE ROOMIE
IN THE FLESH.

YUP. I WENT SWIMMIN' IN THE
HUDSON AND CAUGHT A NASTY
BUG.* BUT I'M OKAY NOW. HOW
'BOUT YOU?

NO... COMPLAINTS.
I'M GRABBING A FAST
VACATION. HEY--GOT
TIME FOR A CUP OF
COFFEE?

I WISH.

HOW
ARE YOU? I
HEARD YOU
WERE IN THE
HOSPITAL!

I'M LATE
FOR MY
FLIGHT
ALREADY.
I'VE GOTTA
HELP
COLLEEN OUT
ON A JOB IN
TOKYO. WRITE
POSTCARDS,
HON, AN' GIVE
MY LOVE TO
SCOTT, HUH?
BE SEEN'
YOU!

SURE.

BARELY A HALF-HOUR LATER,
MISTY'S FLIGHT IS AIRBORNE,
THE BIG 747 HEADING WEST
INTO THE SETTING SUN.

AS IT FADES FROM SIGHT,
JEAN GREY SUDDENLY FINDS
HERSELF SHIVERING, AND
SHE REALIZES WITH A START
THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME
SINCE JOINING THE X-MEN,
SHE'S ON HER OWN...

...WITH NO ONE TO
TURN TO, OR DEPEND
UPON, SAVE HERSELF.

AND THAT
SCARES
THE HELL
OUT OF
HER.

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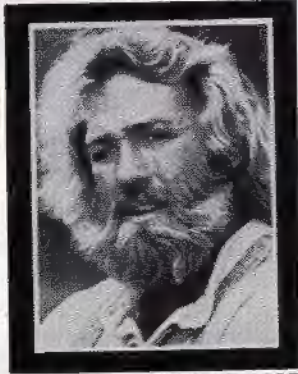
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20" x 28"



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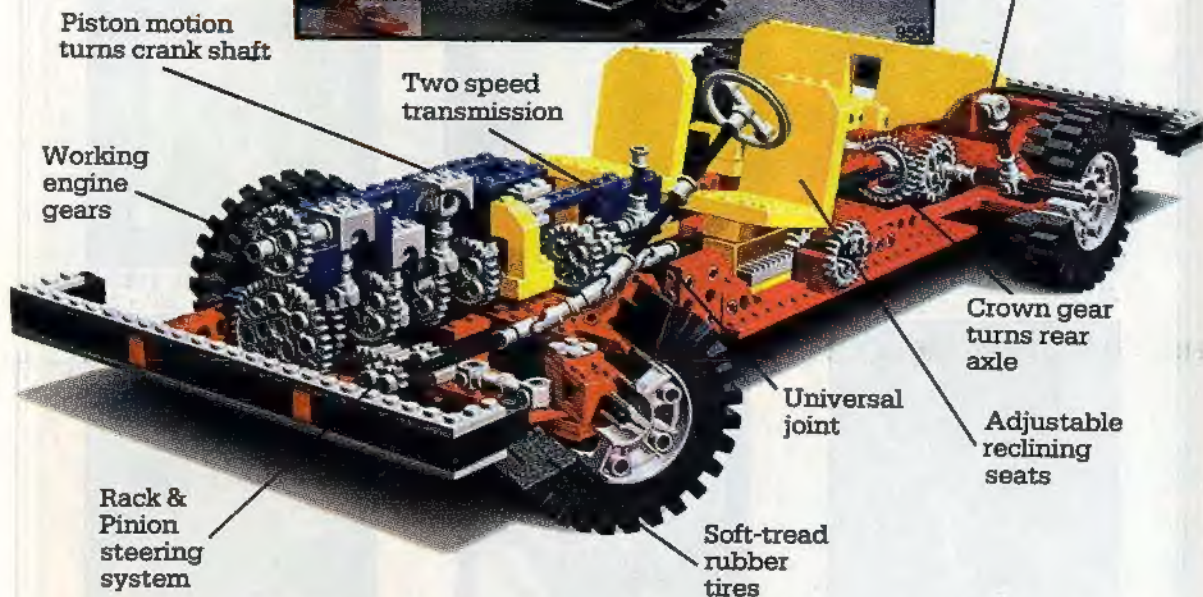
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